

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the patentability of the instant invention is solicited in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

The examiner's comments in paragraph 14 of the outstanding action are acknowledged. It is pointed out that all of applicant's claims are directed to a structure or method where there is a polytetrafluoroethylene layer disposed between the hydrocarbon permeable part(s), that would otherwise have been in contact with the hydrocarbon vapors emanating from the fuel, and the hydrocarbon vapors emanating from the fuel. No reference of record shows such a construction. In every reference of record, the layer abutting the fuel is a co or ter polymer that includes other monomers and may not even have included tetrafluoroethylene. Therefore, the outstanding rejections based on anticipation should be discontinued.

Further, it is submitted that the references of record do not support an obviousness based rejection. No reference of record shows a polytetrafluoroethylene homopolymer bonded to a hose or other fuel transporting or carrying part, where the underlying hose or the like is permeable to hydrocarbon vapors and where the polytetrafluoroethylene bonded hose or the like is not permeable to the transmission of hydrocarbon vapors there through.

The only disclosures that are pertinent to the issue of the patentability of the instant invention have negative implications. That is, the '320 patent discloses, in column 2, that it is in the prior art to use a tube of Teflon or nylon covered with rubber for transporting conventional organic fluids. The '320 patent says that this is unsatisfactory because neither Teflon nor nylon exhibit sufficient flexibility and they do not bond well to the outer rubber surface. Therefore, the '320 patent recommends **not** using a Teflon conduit but rather to use a fluororubber, of which Teflon is not.

Referring back to the '011 patent that is cited as the prior art in the '320 patent, one sees that it discloses a Teflon inner tube, and a nylon outer tube with a braiding between the Teflon and the nylon. There is no disclosure in either reference of a hydrocarbon permeable part having a Teflon

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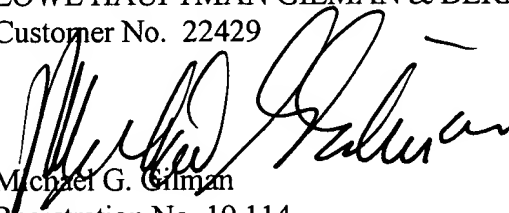
bonded to it is such thickness that the assembly becomes substantially impervious to hydrocarbon vapors.

The other reference relied on by the examiner, the '831 patent, also does not show a Teflon coating bonded to a hydrocarbon vapor permeable part of a fuel system. It too uses a fluoroelastomer as the layer next to the fuel. There is simply no disclosure of bonding a Teflon layer to a rubber member in contact with fuel. That is what is being claimed here.

It is urged that the examiner reconsider the outstanding rejections and withdraw the same. The objections raised by the examiner under 35 USC 112 have been considered. It is believed that all of the problems raised have been obviated. Therefore, all claims should be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN GILMAN & BERNER, LLP
Customer No. 22429



Michael G. Gilman
Registration No. 19,114

1700 Diagonal Road,
Suite 300
Alexandria, VA 22314

Voice(703) 684-1111
(703) 518-5499 Facsimile

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